then we did some concrete works on the canal and some repairs.

Irrigation Works.

156. Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Table:—

(a) (i) a list of the permanent irrigation works (major and minor) constructed or maintained by the Government up-to-date showing when they were constructed and the cost of construction; (ii) a list of the temporary irrigation works (major and minor) which are being constructed by the Government from year to year ;

(b) (i) will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government collects any cess from the people benefited by the works mentioned in clauses (i) and (ii) above; and if so, what ;

(ii) whether the cess is being collected as a tax or as interest on the capital invested by the Government; if the latter, what is the rate per cent collected in respect of the several works mentioned above ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) (i) and (ii). The list is placed on the Council Table. As regards the date and cost of construction of the irrigation works, information is either not available or difficult to be gathered, as the construction relates to different periods in the distant past.

(b) (i). In the case of the minor irrigation works, no cess is collected but notice was taken at the time of settlement when the lands benefited by these works were assigned their 'Tarams'.

In the case of the major works, Government levy water-cess in the following cases. In the Chittur taluk, cess is collected only in the case of lands classified as *Parambas* at the settlement and subsequently converted into *Niloms*. The cess levied for such conversions is Rs. 5 per acre for single crop. An additional cess of Rs. 2—8—0 per acre is levied when a second crop is raised. In the Cochin-Kanayannur taluk, water-cess, at the rate of Rs. 3 per acre, is levied for the supply of water from the Manapat Chira. This cess is levied only in the case of lands not included in the Ayacut statement.

(ii) The cess is being collected as a tax.

157. Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether any committee was appointed by the Government to lay down a vigorous policy of development of irrigation as recommended by the Legislative Council by a resolution passed on 10th March 1926 ;

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